



LAURA M. TOY

6TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-1707
FAX: (517) 373-3935
senltoy@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP**

COMMITTEES:
LOCAL, URBAN AND STATE AFFAIRS
(CHAIR)
SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS
AFFAIRS (CHAIR)
TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY
(VICE CHAIR)
CAPITOL COMMITTEE

This Fourth of July, as we celebrate our nation's independence, we also are reminded of the many blessings we sometimes take for granted. We are truly fortunate to call this nation – and this great State of Michigan – home.

That's why, this summer, I urge you to discover – or rediscover – all of the magnificent things that Michigan has to offer. As our state motto says, "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you." With the Great Lakes, outstanding recreational opportunities and pristine natural resources, Michiganians have a summer wonderland right in our backyard.

Michigan is truly an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Within our state borders, we are blessed with more than 11,000 inland lakes, an extensive network of rivers and streams, and coastline on four of the five Great Lakes. This makes Michigan an excellent place for swimming, boating, and fishing.

There are also more than 95 beautiful state parks throughout Michigan, including Mackinac Island, where residents can enjoy camping, hiking, picnicking and biking. Our own Metroparks like Kensington and county parks like Edward Hines offer many of these fun activities as well. In addition, Michigan is home to several scenic national parks and recreation areas such as Pictured Rocks and Sleeping Bear Dunes national lakeshores, Isle Royal National Park and the Keweenaw National Historical Park, as well as hundreds of thousands of acres of national forest land.

If you prefer, you also can find top-notch golf, antiques, museums and shopping. Michigan also has plenty to offer for the history buff. Here in the Detroit area, residents and visitors can visit world-class museums and nearly 40 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the famed Ford River Rouge Complex, Greenfield Village, Greektown and the Fischer Building.

This year, look beyond the traditional backyard barbeque and find new ways to enjoy summer in Michigan. Try water skiing, take your children fishing, ride a bike trail or visit a museum. Rediscover your state's rich heritage and unparalleled recreational opportunities. Michigan is an absolutely beautiful state to explore. I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday and a summer filled with lots of Michigan fun and many special memories.